



Life Saver Ministries
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Dear Life Savers,

Do you have an activity that “defines” you? I don’t mean completely. We all have many things that define us, but do you do something that is a part of you, that is a passion? Can you say I’m a dancer, or I’m a golfer, or a quilter, or maybe a musician, or a writer, or even a grandparent? Someone recently said to me, “You’re a carpenter, right?” I replied, “I do carpentry, but I wouldn’t call myself a carpenter.” Calling myself a carpenter would be an insult to real carpenters. I enjoy doing carpentry, but it doesn’t define me in any way.

I am a photographer. I was a commercial photographer for twenty years. Even though that was almost thirty years ago, before God called me to start this ministry, I still have a photographer’s brain. I understand the workings of cameras, and lenses. Things like exposure, composition, and dynamic range are second nature. The technicalities of shutter speed, aperture, and ISO are so ingrained in my mind, I don’t need to consciously think about them.

I have a photographer’s eye. I see things as images. You know how in the movies an actor playing the role of a movie director will hold up his hands and look at things through that makeshift frame? I don’t do that. That’s dumb. I do see how things would look in a photograph, though. I don’t consciously do it. It just happens. Sometimes, this drives me a little crazy. When I’m driving down the road, I’ll see something, and an image of that something as a photograph will pop into my head. I’ll immediately start looking for a place to stop and turn around, so I can go back and turn that image into a photograph.

When Cathie and I are taking a walk, she expects me to stop and take out my camera or my phone, if it’s the only thing I have with me, and take a picture. She waits patiently, most of the time, and will then ask what I took a pic of. Often, her next question will be – why? Cathie is used to this kind of behavior from me. She has put up with it since the days we were in college. I had a darkroom in my bedroom and would spend hours developing pictures, while she waited for me to finish. I’ve always been a fun date.

I usually don’t take just one picture of something that interests me. I’ve taken hundreds of photos walking around my yard. We have a small rose bush. I have photographed that little bush from every angle I can get this old body to conform to, under all kinds of lighting and weather conditions.

As a loving husband, I buy Cathie flowers. The fact that I usually get a bunch of photos from every bouquet of flowers is totally irrelevant and does not in any way negate my thoughtfulness.

I don’t take pictures of people, as a rule, except for my grandchildren and the kids at My Father’s House (who are also my grandchildren, so I guess that’s redundant). I did bring a camera to my son Josh’s wedding. I got some nice shots of an old pickup truck.

I’m a poor photographer. I don’t mean my photos are terrible, I think some of them are pretty good. What I mean is I can’t afford a really nice camera. Have you looked at the prices of cameras and lenses? I am saving up for one, though.

This brings me to my philosophy on photography. A good photographer can use any camera and take nice photographs. Yes, I’m saving for a new camera, but I still use the one I have to do the best I can, and I enjoy doing it.

This is also my philosophy on life. Do the best you can with the tools you have available. Improve your skills and upgrade your tools when you can. Your greatest tool is your mind. Enjoy what you do.

At My Father's House, we try to pass on the tools of life and parenting we have acquired in *our* lives to our young moms. Some of these tools we received from our parents, some we gained through education and training, and others we learned through trial and error. Of course, these tools we pass on are only a beginning. Our moms need to add their own tools and learn the skills they will need to succeed in the world they want to build for themselves and their children.

We encourage them to gather as many tools as they can while living at My Father's House. Whether these tools are a high school diploma or GED, career training, college courses, or a driver's license, they are all things that will help them reach their goals. If they never stop adding to their tools, honing their skills, and relying on God, the future will be bright for them and their families.

Being the Thanksgiving season, I asked the two young moms currently living at My Father's House to say a few words about what they are thankful for. Here is what they had to say.

I am so thankful to be here at My Father's House. What makes me so thankful being here is how wonderful and amazing the staff are here. I'm also thankful for being here with my son Jose and my soon to be born Julius. I have been able to accomplish the things I needed to accomplish that if it wasn't because of the support here at My Father's House I wouldn't have accomplished what I needed to accomplish. I am very excited to be here. It makes me so happy to see the love and attention here at My Father's House. Thank you so much My Father's House.

Stephanie & Jose



Anthony

I am thankful for My Father's House for giving me a fresh, new start to life with my son, Anthony. I came from a bad living situation and I immediately felt safe and welcome. The environment is welcoming, and the staff are great. My son and I are beyond blessed!

Kiara & Anthony

Kiara and Anthony have only been at My Father's House for a short time. They are both doing very well.

In this season of thanksgiving, I want to thank all of you wonderful people who make this ministry possible. I hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving and you are able to spend time with family and friends. Because of you, these young moms have a safe and warm home in which to spend this holiday season.

I don't want to end this letter on a down note, but our finances are stretched very thin right now. Donations are down \$16,000 from last year, and we are looking at the possibility of needing to replace one of our boilers. If there is any way you can help, We will be very grateful.

I'll have a photo of Julius for you next month. God bless.

In His service,

Kevin

Kevin Coffey